

it. This legislative action is needed to fulfill the original plan for operating the visitor center.

The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is truly unique. It is the only visitor center or museum in the United States to focus on the flora and fauna and scientific discoveries recorded by Lewis and Clark.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was a watershed mark in American history. Two centuries later, the courageous story of these two outstanding explorers and the Corps of Discovery continues to inspire Americans of all ages. This legislation will help ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to learn about this remarkable journey.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3871.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and so I yield back my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3871, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD STUDY ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5132) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Monroe County, Michigan, relating to the Battles of the River Raisin during the War of 1812, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5132

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "River Raisin National Battlefield Study Act".*

#### SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY, MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, SITES RELATING TO BATTLES OF THE RIVER RAISIN.

(a) *STUDY REQUIRED.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study of sites in Monroe County, Michigan, relating to the Battles of the River Raisin on January 18 and 22, 1813, and their aftermath to determine—

(1) the national significance of the sites; and  
(2) the suitability and feasibility of including the sites in the National Park System.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the analysis and recommendations of the Secretary on—

(1) the effect on Monroe County, Michigan, of including the sites in the National Park System; and

(2) whether the sites could be included in an existing unit of the National Park System.

(c) *CONSULTATION.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) appropriate Federal agencies and State and local government entities; and

(2) interested groups and organizations.

(d) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

(e) *REPORT.*—Not later than three years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5132 directs the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility and suitability of including certain lands related to the Battle of the River Raisin during the War of 1812 in Monroe County, Michigan, as part of the National Park System.

Currently, the main battlefield is occupied by an abandoned paper mill. The city of Monroe has received a \$1 million grant to clean up the location in preparation for possible listing as a National Historic Landmark. The National Park Service testified that there is intact archaeological evidence of the battle and that this site has impressive integrity as a battlefield if it is preserved.

I urge your support for H.R. 5132.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, while most Americans are aware of the significance of the Revolutionary War or the Civil War, the importance of the War of 1812 is not as widely understood.

The Dean of this House, Representative JOHN DINGELL, is to be commended for his experience and effectiveness in bringing this important legislation to the floor. It is always an honor to work with Mr. DINGELL, and we urge our colleagues to support H.R. 5132.

Mr. Speaker, it is now indeed my honor to yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the Dean of this House and the sponsor of this legislation.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I intend to show my appreciation to the distin-

guished gentlewoman by revising and extending my remarks and also my respect and affection for the gentleman from New Mexico.

I rise to support the legislation. I urge the House to pass this legislation. It was the bloodiest battle. It commemorates the bloodiest battle in the history of Michigan, the bloodiest battle in the War of 1812, and the loss of 700 citizens and more, mostly from Kentucky, who came to Michigan to save it from the British and the Indians. The end result was that "Remember the River Raisin" became the battle cry in the War of 1812.

Our work today, I want you to know, makes a very important contribution to us remembering the history of Michigan, the history of the War of 1812 and matters important, not just to my people in Monroe, but to all of us.

I thank the gentleman from New Mexico and the distinguished gentlewoman from Guam and my friend, chairman of the committee, Mr. POMBO.

Mr. Speaker, in six years our nation will mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The War of 1812 is one of the least studied, but most important episodes in our nation's history. Following the Revolutionary War, America was a weak nation and was preyed upon by Britain, France and Spain. Britain aimed to re-conquer the newly independent former colonies.

The legislation we are considering here today will preserve one of the most important stories of that war, the Battle of the River Raisin.

This legislation, quite simply, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability of including the site of the River Raisin massacre into the National Park system.

The legislation already has support from the people of Monroe, Michigan, our governor, historians, archeologists and the National Park Service.

When the war broke out, it was expected that Britain would quickly defeat the poorly equipped and poorly trained Americans. Washington was burned, and British troops torched the Capitol.

Along the Western frontier, in what is today Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky, the war raged. When Detroit fell to the British a contingent of Kentuckians, under the direction of Gen. William Henry Harrison marched to retake the city.

On January 18, 1813 American forces crossed the River Raisin and attacked the British encampment on the other side. They forced the British to retreat. Four days later, British forces and their Native American allies counter-attacked. The Americans were routed.

When the British withdrew, they took with them any American who could travel as a prisoner. The injured were left. The next day, the Native allies returned and massacred the Americans and burned the surrounding town to the ground.

Of the 900 strong American force only 33 escaped death or capture. Throughout the American Army the cry "Remember the Raisin" rallied our troops. Soon thereafter, spurred by the memory of the Raisin, the Americans liberated Detroit and won the decisive Battle of the Thames in Ontario—guaranteeing America's victory in the war.

The River Raisin Battle is still the bloodiest battle ever in Michigan, and was the most violent battle on continental U.S. soil outside of the Civil War. It is an important episode in American history that needs to be recognized.

Since 1813, the site of the battle and massacre has been encroached upon increasingly by the town of Monroe. What was once a small farming settlement is now a bustling city.

Homes have been built where the American soldiers crossed the river. A factory, at one time, operated on the site; buildings were built and later torn down. Now, most of the land where the battle took place is in the possession of the City of Monroe and they want to make sure that it is protected for all Americans to visit.

The State of Michigan has provided \$1 million for Brownfield redevelopment and rehabilitation of the site. The City of Monroe and the Monroe County Historical Society have each pledged \$35,000 for the creation of a master plan for the entire battlefield site, and they will soon be applying for a Battlefield Protection Grant through the National Park Service.

A citizens' group has also formed to guide the development of the battlefield, raise funds for historic preservation and develop educational programs.

I am confident that the energy and commitment of the community would make this a wise inclusion into our National Park system.

I can think of no better way to honor the hundreds who gave their lives at the River Raisin than to make the site a permanent memorial to their bravery and sacrifice.

We need to do this in order to protect an important piece of our Nation's heritage.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5132, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL STUDY ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1796) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1796

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mississippi River Trail Study Act".

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ROUTE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the first paragraph after paragraph (40) as paragraph (41) and, in such paragraph, by striking "The" and inserting "LONG WALK TRAIL.—The";

(2) by redesignating the second paragraph after paragraph (40) as paragraph (42); and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(43) MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL.—The route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico."

(b) RELATION TO OTHER STUDIES.—The study required by the amendment made by this section is intended to complement, and not duplicate, other studies of the scenic or historical importance of the Mississippi River that may be underway or undertaken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1796 would designate the route of the Mississippi River for study as a potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail or both. The route would stretch from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

Establishing a national trail along the river will connect the nearly 40 existing public land units on or very near the river which includes national forests, national parks, and wildlife refuges.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, Representative BETTY MCCOLLUM is to be commented for her foresight in introducing this legislation and her diligence in working to get her bill to the floor today.

The importance of the mighty Mississippi in her district and all along its route as it bisects this country before reaching the Gulf of Mexico can never be overstated.

I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1796.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my friend and our colleague from St. Paul, Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Guam, a fellow alumni from the College of St. Catherine's located in St. Paul, Minnesota, on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1796, the Mississippi River Trail

Study Act, which will help connect America and Americans in the future to the Mississippi River and focus attention on its incredible natural resource.

The Mississippi River Trail Study Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study examining the feasibility and the suitability of including the Mississippi corridor in our National Trails System.

This study will be an important step towards coordinating the public and private amenities along the river, preserving its natural treasures, and recognizing the Mississippi's historic and cultural values for our country.

This will be the first time the Mississippi River corridor is considered for inclusion in our National Park System, and it should be for, after all, the Mississippi River is America's river.

On its journey from Lake Itasca in my home State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River touches 10 States.

□ 1515

It shapes the everyday life for more than 11 million Americans living in communities along its banks and contributes to the enjoyment of millions of domestic and international tourists who visit the Mississippi River attractions each year.

The mighty Mississippi continues to be a working river, moving goods safely and inexpensively along America's natural artery of commerce.

The Mississippi River Trail Study Act is supported by local and multi-state groups. For example, the Mississippi Parkway Commission, the Audubon Minnesota and the Mississippi River Trail Corporation have offered to help the National Park Service complete the study by contributing data, local contacts and other tangible forms of assistance, and these are just a few of the examples that the Park Service can expect all up and down the Mississippi River corridor.

The Park Service said, with this help and cooperation from groups, they will be able to save time and money in completing the study.

In the past, the Mississippi River has been a powerful story line in America's narrative. Today, the River continues to shape our identity, strengthen our economy, and its beauty continues to be breathtaking. The Mississippi River a national treasure, deserving consideration authorized by this legislation.

Once again, I thank my colleagues from Guam and New Mexico for helping with the floor debate.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MCCOLLUM for her remarks. I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by